

From: jrob@jump.net@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/27/02 7:13pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Dear sirs,

Having watched the computer industry for about 20 years now, I have witnessed the Microsoft corporation as it has grown from the supplier of software for 'hobby' computers to its present day dominance in the software industry.

And I have watched as it has systematically destroyed any company that has attempted to do business selling software, starting with Digital Research in the 1980's. As near as I can tell, Microsoft has never been the innovator it claims to be, but rather exists by adopting the ideas of others and marketing them as its own.

Therefore, it is with great disappointment that I learn that the punishment for abusing its monopoly power will in essence be, that it must promise to be nice and not do it any more. Note that Microsoft has never publicly acknowledged its own wrongdoing!

A more realistic judgement, in my opinion, would be to completely revoke the IPRs that have allowed it to become the monster it is. Not forever, not for every company. Just for Microsoft and just for a period of say, 5 years as in the current judgement. During that period, Microsoft could no longer make wild claims of 'piracy' nor force users to 'sign' a ridiculous 'contract' merely by clicking their mouse. If someone wished to copy or reverse-engineer Microsoft products during that period, he or she could do so with impunity.

It would serve as a reminder to Microsoft that it can be regulated, and that the foundation of its business model is in fact government regulation.

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James Robertson